

Mrs. Roosevelt's occupancy of the White House social conditions have been improved. Invitations have been much more eagerly sought and accepted. The arrangements for public functions have been more carefully made.

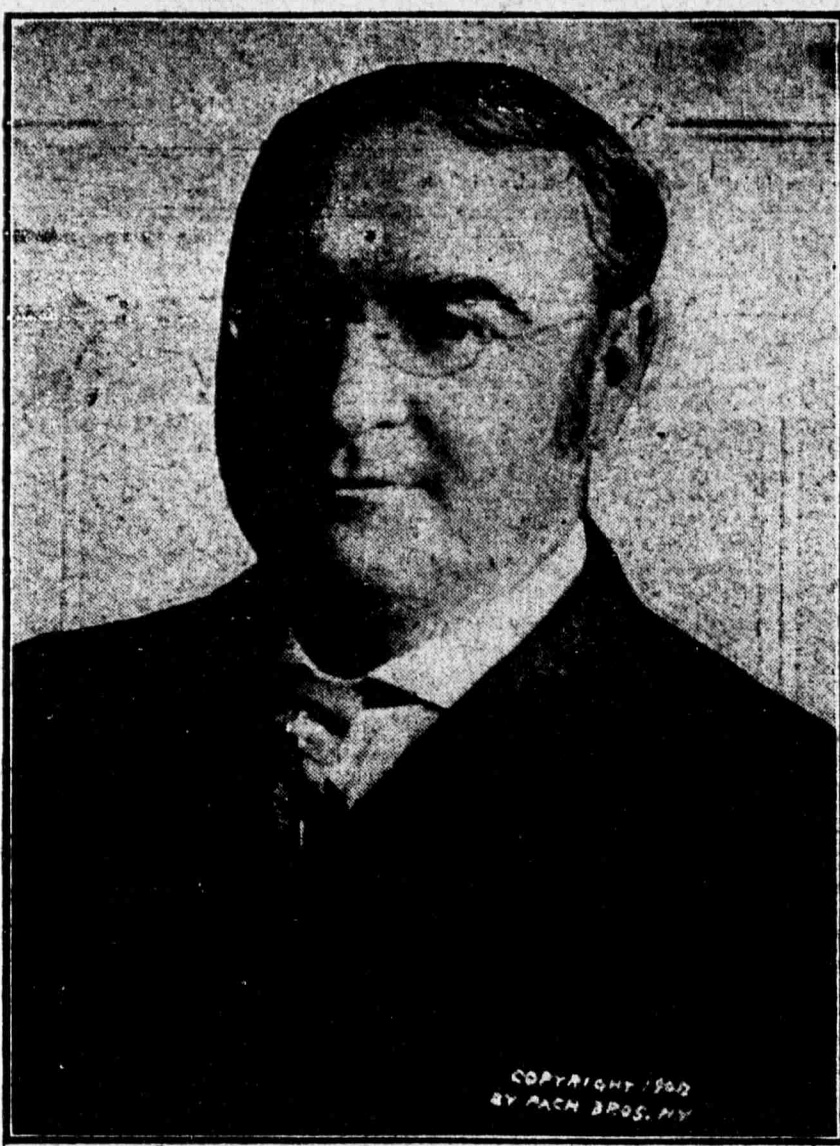
Public comfort has been increased and all facilities have been improved, while the presence of society leaders from various sections of the country has been much more frequent than for many years. One of the changes for which Mrs. Roosevelt has been responsible and for which several of the adjuncts of the Cabinet have been extremely grateful has been the abolition of the tea table as an adjunct to the customary Wednesday afternoon receptions given by the wives of Cabinet members in the course of the season.

For many years tea and light refreshments have been served for the mob on such occasions. Mrs. Roosevelt early declared against this, apparently on the theory that it was enough to receive a horde of curious strangers without also furnishing the hospitality of food for a throng of persons one did not know personally and probably never would. Just the simple stand up and shake hands reception was sufficient, according to Mrs. Roosevelt's notion.

Mrs. Taft, however, did not hold this view. She persisted in maintaining the tea table as an adjunct of her Wednesday receptions given in the quality of the War Secretary's wife. Mrs. Fairbanks, the Vice-President's wife, and Mrs. Shaw, while Mr. Shaw was Secretary of the Treasury, were also of Mrs. Taft's mind, and there is an impression that this difference of opinion had a certain if slight effect on the cordiality of the social relations existing between the wife of the incoming President and the wife of the outgoing Chief Executive.

The marriage of the President's eldest daughter, Alice, to Representative Nicholas Longworth and her departure from the White House made less difference socially than might have been expected, for the reason that in great measure her departure was only nominal. She has been at the White House a great deal since her marriage and at the public functions has been an object of interest to the official in a degree only less than the President himself.

In the days before her marriage Miss Alice Roosevelt was one of the busiest figures in Washington society and occupied the limelight far more than any other person socially prominent. Her bosom friend and comrade was the Countess Cassini, daughter of the Russian Ambassador. They went everywhere together and indeed it is said to have been the Countess Cassini who brought the President's daughter and her present husband together. However that may be, Miss Roosevelt was much grieved



VICE-PRESIDENT JAMES S. SHERMAN.

position which she occupied when the Cincinnati Orchestra was organized under the leadership of Frank Van Der Stucken. For a number of years she maintained her place at the head of the Cincinnati Orchestra Association and is still a member of its board of managers. When she went to Manila the first time with Mr. Taft the orchestra association gave her an old silver centerpiece curiously wrought and it now occupies a place among the articles of interest in the White House.

Mrs. Taft is of middle height and still possesses a slender and graceful figure. Her hair is of a lively brown shade, though it is just beginning to show here and

plishments the fact that Mrs. Taft possesses a never failing tact and good humor and it becomes clear that the President's wife measures well up to the task that she is now confronting.

She has no fads, just the regular routine of her busy life keeps her busy, though she confesses to a slight partiality to a quiet game of bridge when she has the time for it. She has never taken any part in the women's club life of Washington, though, of course, she like all the other wives of Cabinet members has been a member of the Washington Club by courtesy.

Mrs. Taft's old fashioned training is evident in many details of her character besides that of lack of ostentation. For example she has a strong dislike of Sunday entertainments of anything like a formal character and it is safe to say that they will play no part whatever in the social life of the White House. Sunday, in fact, will be as nearly a day of rest in the White House as it is possible to make it in the home of the nation's Chief Executive.

All the members of the President's family excepting himself are Protestant Episcopalians. Mrs. Taft and the children when they are in Washington will attend St. John's Church with regularity, as they have been doing now for some years. Miss Helen Taft was confirmed in St. John's and was a member of the same confirmation class with Miss Ethel Roosevelt, with whom she has long been on friendly though not especially intimate terms.

The President himself is a Unitarian and attends All Souls Church when he goes to church at all; but his attendance has always been sporadic and not regular. The country still remembers the extraordinary circumstance that in the course of the Presidential campaign the middle West was flooded with tens of thousands of circulars demanding of the voters: "Are you going to vote for a man for President of the United States who denies the divinity of Jesus Christ?" Apparently a good many of them did so vote.

THE TAFT CHILDREN.

Miss Helen Taft, the only daughter of the President and his wife, has a strong facial likeness to her father, while her two brothers, Robert and Charlie, look more like their mother. The daughter bears her mother's Christian name, however, and is in many ways not unlike her. She is a rather tall and slender young girl of 18 years, with plenty of brown hair and thoughtful brown eyes.

Her face is that of a rather studious girl, though she is far from being a bookworm. Like her mother again she has considerable facility in the languages and is very fond of reading. She was graduated last spring from Miss Baldwin's School at Bryn Mawr, Pa., where she made an excellent record for scholarship.

Though she leads the life of a normal wholesome American girl, Miss Helen has as yet manifested no strong taste for the pleasures of society. She is, in fact, rather retiring in disposition. No doubt a part of this disposition may be traced to the fact that she is not especially robust.

While she was still a small child she met with an accident which resulted in a serious injury to her back. As a result she has for years been obliged to wear a brace. Consequently she is not very strong for out of door sports, though now and then she rides, and is moderately fond of dancing. Moreover she is in much better health than she was as a small child and is rapidly outgrowing her physical disability.

Since she was old enough to mingle with the children of other prominent Washington parties Miss Taft has always been popular with her companions. A reporter once went to the Taft home to get a photograph of Miss Taft. Neither Miss Taft nor her mother has ever had in the least degree the itch for notoriety, but as members of the President's family they know that it can't be helped and they "play the game," though it is against their personal tastes.

On this occasion it appeared that the only photograph of Miss Taft taken since her childish days that was available was in a group of her schoolfellows at Miss Baldwin's school and, truth to tell, it was not flattering. It was, in short, a travesty. There had been no many requests for a photograph of Mrs. Taft told her daughter that she really should go to the photographer and have one taken. Miss Taft looked at her picture in the group.

"I really don't think it's so awfully bad of me," she said. "I don't think I'll get anything better, mother."

To anybody who had seen the group picture this was a speech exceedingly indicative of modesty. However, Miss Taft did go to the photographer and the result was something decidedly better, though at that it only did her justice.

Robert Alphonso Taft is the eldest of

he children. He is now a member of the junior class at Yale University. He has made a reputation for scholarship there second to that of no other undergraduate of the present day. He led his class at the end of the freshman year and was in the front rank at the finish of the sophomore year.

He is now 18 years old and is headed for the law. He has been a student from the time he could read and arrived at college leaving behind him in preparatory school a record for honors. Like his father he is a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity and in fact appears to be about as nearly what his father was at his age as the most exacting papa could possibly hope or desire. He doesn't go in heavily for athletics, but for all that he plugs away a good deal in the "gym" and in sophomore year got as far as being a member of the chess club.

Charlie Taft (Charles Phelps, to be exact—he was named for his uncle) appears likely to be one of the busiest members of all the Taft household. He is a lively boy of about 13 years of age who seems always to be on the jump. For a time he was a member of a big Washington public school but has recently been attending the Friends School, a Quaker institution where many of the children of prominent Washingtonians are being educated.

Charlie is fond of horses and sports and was at one time a close friend of Quentin Roosevelt. That friendship, however, came near to splitting upon a rock called a picnic. It appears that Charlie was a member of a baseball team that had the honor of being bossed by Quentin. There was also a Y. M. C. A. picnic one day when Quentin had ordered that the team should practice. He decreed that if Charlie went to the picnic his membership in the baseball team should thereby, automatically, ipso facto, cease and determine.

Charlie thought it over a few minutes and then went to the picnic. Also his membership in Quentin's baseball team did all those things just mentioned: Charlie, however, has continued to play baseball but not on Quentin's team, and to ride a pony that his uncle gave him and row and skate when the water was hard enough. The public will look to him to

formerly discharged by Miss Hagner. The preparation of invitation lists forms a large part of these duties and troublesome questions of precedence and such vexatious matters will find in Mr. Williams a person well qualified to handle them. He at all events had to do with all the invitation lists of the Cabinet dinners given by the Tafts, and recently while the Tafts were at Hot Springs he was there and attended to great bulk of the correspondence.

If the prediction that comparative simplicity and informality will form the most distinguishing feature of the new social life of the White House should prove true Mr. Williams will find the berth far easier than Miss Hagner has found it. Mr. Williams, by the way, is also a clerk in the War Department.

The entire character of the movable decorations of the living apartments of the White House has of course undergone a great change. The neighbors have been much interested in observing the Roosevelts packing up and moving out and the Tafts moving in. The decorative appointments under the Tafts will assume a rather pronounced Oriental character, this effect being emphasized and assisted by the presence of numerous articles of furniture and decorations which have been picked up either by gift or purchase by Mr. and Mrs. Taft in the course of their very extensive travels around the habitable globe.

There will be seen many Oriental draperies and objects of art, Philippine, Japanese, Chinese, Russian and so on, such things, for example, as two boxes of beautiful gold lacquer work, which are the gift of the Empress of Japan; a huge Japanese tapestry of exquisite design representing Columbus at the court of Queen Isabella; a heavy silver scroll work presented to Mr. Taft by the English Club of Manila on the occasion of the President's last visit to the Philippines; a lovely piece of German enamel set in silver and bearing the crest of the Vatican, which was presented to Mr. Taft by Pope Leo XIII.; a silver punch bowl given by Prince Fushimi of Japan, and many another curious and strange pieces of exotic beauty.

WHITE HOUSE EXPENSES.
The President has never been a wealthy



PHILANDER C. KNOX, SECRETARY OF STATE.

simple as those of President and Mrs. Taft the luxury and appointments among which they will reside from this time on must seem a trifle oppressive. The President will, for example, travel on a special train. When he lands in Washington from a journey he will be ushered into a special Presidential suite prepared at great expense in the magnificent Union Station. From here he will be whisked in a Governmental limousine directly to the White House.

The public will probably square accounts with the President by continuing to hail him as "Bill" or even as "Old Bill," and the President will certainly be pleased if that goes on happening. Something has to be left of "democratic simplicity," even if it's only the word "Bill."

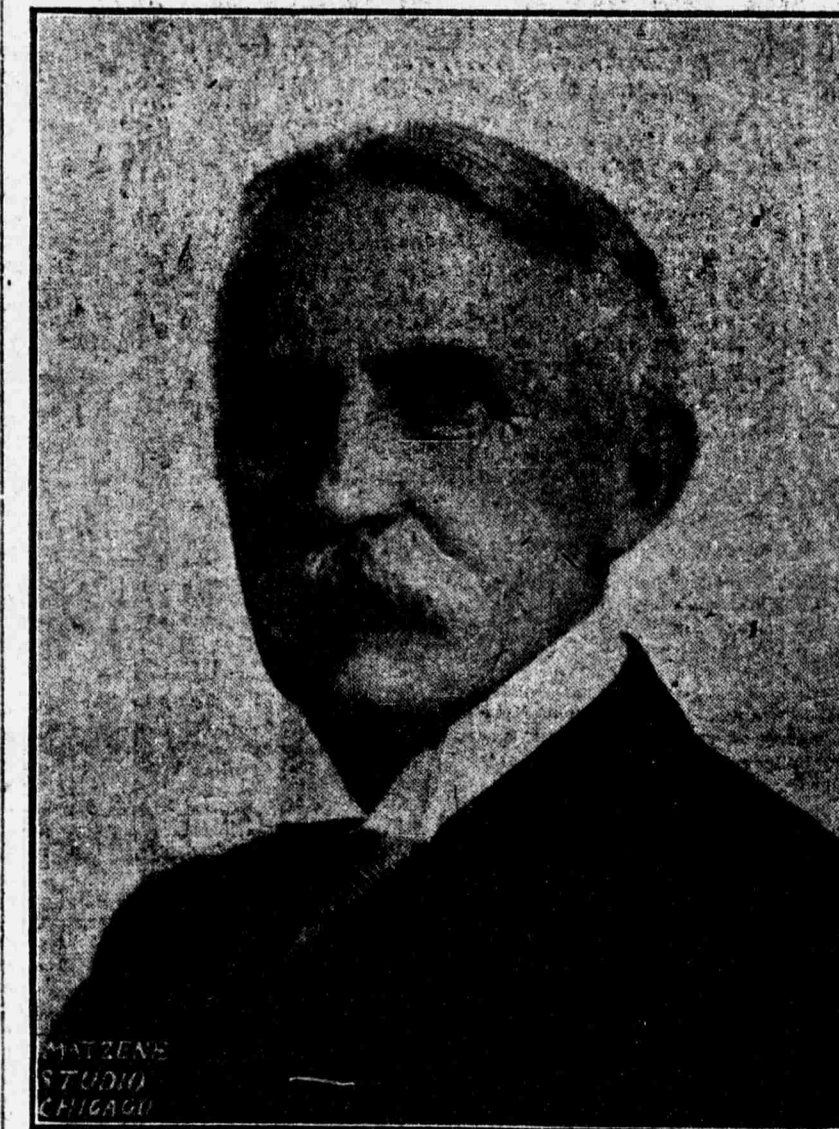
THE KNOXES WELL KNOWN IN WASHINGTON.
Mrs. Philander C. Knox as the wife of the Secretary of State will by virtue of this position be the most important figure in official society under the new Administration with the single exception of Mrs. Taft. She was long a very intimate friend of Mrs. Roosevelt and knows Washington life thoroughly. She was Miss Lillian Smith, daughter of Andrew C. Smith, one of the most important figures in the steel industry in Pittsburgh.

The Knoxes have four children—Rebecca Page Knox, now the wife of James Tyndall, a wealthy Pittsburgher; Hugh Smith Knox, a young man in the early twenties now studying law; Reed Knox,

This function is among the earliest in the official social season and following it the other members of the Cabinet give their official dinners in rotation, the order being as follows: Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Attorney-General, Postmaster-General, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the order being that in which the various departments were established.

When the Knoxes first entered official life in 1901 by the appointment of Mr. Knox as McKinley's Attorney-General Mr. Knox brought with him to Washington a pair of road horses which he had himself driven to a world's record. Some imaginative correspondent sent out a story that these costly animals were named Highball and Seltzer respectively, a statement which Mr. Knox indignantly denied. These horses he still owns but he drives them only at Valley Forge.

Since that time the Knoxes have become converted to the use of the automobile. Mr. and Mrs. Knox having taken a long tour in a motor car through Europe last summer. They own two cars, and their son Philander, a lad under 20, has a car of his own in which he is frequently seen about the streets of the capital. Secretary Knox recently said that in his opinion the Government should buy more automobiles for the use of officials and the despatch of Government business generally. He believes that it would result in



FRANKLIN MACVEAGH, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

fill the busy place in the public prints that has previously been occupied by Quentin with some help from Archie, and the public probably will not be disappointed.

Lamentable to relate, however, it seems highly probable that weeds will soon be the sole tenants of the White House tennis court, now famous as the meeting place of the Tennis Cabinet. Mr. Taft is too stout for tennis, and anyhow he prefers golf. Miss Helen Taft has never played tennis and neither of the two boys has ever shown any liking for the game.

The only out of door sport that Mrs. Taft herself has ever followed to any extent is riding. The last riding she did was when she was with her husband in Manila when he was Governor of the Philippines and since those days she has never shown any inclination to take it up again. Miss Helen goes riding occasionally and when she does she uses a sidesaddle.

Altogether it is a likable family that has just moved into the White House; a family that the neighbors are very likely to approve. Even the janitor is expected to grow enthusiastic. The home that has been abandoned by the Tafts in favor of the White House is at 1603 K street, in the centre of Washington's most fashionable district.

On one side of it stands Admiral Dewey's house, while on the other it is flanked by the residence of Senator Wetmore, the Rhode Island millionaire, who never says anything except "aye" and "nay," and only those words when Senator Aldrich wishes. Across the street stands the home of Senator Elkins and near by is the residence of Mrs. Bonaparte.

The Tafts are far from being strangers in the White House. Mrs. Taft has frequently been there as a member of "Mrs. Roosevelt's Cabinet," and a good many people will easily remember how last summer Mr. Taft on one of his visits to the then President took a look around the place and announced smilingly that he rather liked it and hoped he'd be able to come back again a little later and stay longer. Well, he's back, there now and nobody knows how long he's likely to stay.

THE NEW SOCIAL SECRETARY.

With the departure of Mrs. Roosevelt from the White House there disappeared another woman who has occupied a place highly important in official society. This is Miss Isabel Hagner, who has acted as the social secretary of the President's wife. She is nominally on the payroll of the War Department and will remain in the service of the Government.

While the new social organization of the White House is as yet uncompleted, it is very generally supposed at any rate that Jimmy Williams, a young Washington society man of excellent birth, will succeed more or less to the duties

man. For a good many years he has done nothing but hold office, and as things go in these days holding office is not especially lucrative. It costs some money to run the White House, too, and though the public pays part of the bill there's a good deal that it doesn't pay for and that is both necessary and expensive.

The housekeeping job at the White House is probably the biggest in the country. The President is supposed to pay for his own subsistence and the entertainment of his guests. He pays, too, for all his servants, with one or two exceptions, such as the steward. In the case of Mr. Roosevelt, however, the exceptions were perhaps more numerous than sometimes they have been.

His barber, for example, was a special accountant in Governmental employ at a salary of \$1,600. Another colored man, nominally an employee of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at a salary of \$1,200, was employed as a White House messenger and was largely used for delivering invitations to social functions. Still another was a "bookbinder" named Marshall who was similarly employed and paid by the Government.

The rule has been that the President even had to pay for the state dinners, for the wines, the food and all the trimmings.

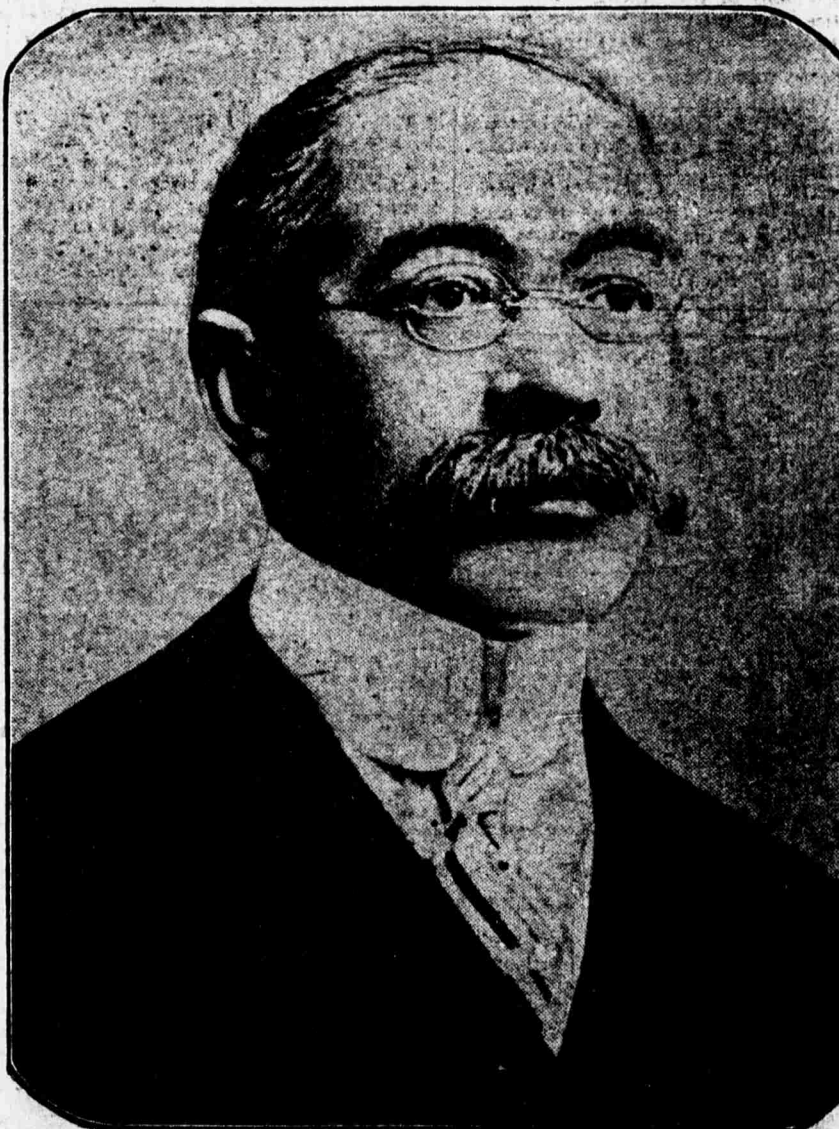
There has been a good deal of dispute as to whether a President of the United States could save money out of a salary of \$50,000 or even live within that sum. What is known about the results of the attempts of various Presidents to do one or the other of these things leads to the conclusion that it all depends on the President.

McKinley, for example, is said to have saved money out of his salary, but it ought to be remembered that owing to the invalidism of Mrs. McKinley the social life of the White House was exceedingly quiet. Moreover, McKinley had no children to provide for.

The President, while he has to furnish his own horses, does not have to pay for their maintenance or for the groom who cares for them. Nor is the cost of a state dinner so great as might be thought. It is at \$7 a plate, which is probably high enough, and remember that sometimes sixty persons will be in attendance and the cost of such a dinner is seen to reach only \$420.

The public receptions at the White House, which make the biggest show, are in reality the cheapest things of all. No refreshments are served, everything is very formal and the music is furnished by the Marine Band, which is ordered there for that purpose. Apparently a President of the United States might live within his income if he tried to do it, even if that income were only \$50,000.

To a couple whose tastes are really so



GEORGE W. WICKERSHAM, ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

a lad of 18, who was named for Secretary Knox's former law partner in Pittsburgh, and Philander Chase Knox, Jr.

Mrs. Knox is rather a small woman and is a trifle deaf. The home now occupied by the Knox family is a magnificent house situated at 1527 K street. It was built for Mrs. George W. Childs, widow of the Philadelphia philanthropist, and stands next to the house of Senator Hale, Maine's millionaire representative in the upper house of Congress. It contains many appurtenances and signs of wealth. An unusual feature is a private chapel. This was built for the use of Mrs. Childs, who was a devout Catholic.

In this rather splendid house Mrs. Knox presides over a family which lives the life of those who have long been accustomed to wealth and social position, though she is of a quiet turn of mind and does not much care for social functions. That she will gracefully discharge all the duties devolving upon her as the first lady in Cabinet social life is not doubted by anybody who knows her.

One of these duties is the giving of a New Year's Day breakfast to the Diplomatic Corps. Another is a dinner which the Secretary of State gives annually in honor of the President. To this dinner the head of the State Department usually invites several other Cabinet members, though there is no hard and fast rule laid down for this.

increased economy and that the Government should own its own machine shop and do its own repairing.

In addition to their big Washington home the Knoxes have a fine country place at Valley Forge, a short distance west of Philadelphia. Here the Secretary owns a farm, and an unusual farm. It actually makes money—not much but enough to furnish a reasonable return on the investment, though of course the living expenses of the family are not reckoned in, for the reason that they are by no means the living expenses of the average farmer. More or less? Well, suppose you make a guess.

Near the Knox country place is the old house in which Gen. Knox, the Revolutionary General who was Washington's Adjutant-General, had his headquarters during the terrible winter spent by the Continentals at Valley Forge. This house is owned by the Secretary and in it his daughter and her husband, Mr. Tyndall, spent a part of their time each year. It has been generally understood that Secretary Knox is a descendant of the Revolutionary General of the same name, but this is not the case.

Reed Knox, one of the Secretary's sons, married Miss McCook of Washington and lives in the national capital. Hugh is a graduate of Yale, like President Taft. In the class of 1907, and is now studying law. At Yale he was concerned in the



F. H. HITCHCOCK, POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

when she lost the companionship of the Countess through the recall of her father from the Russian Ambassadorship.

As a figure of public interest Miss Ethel Roosevelt has never quite filled the place formerly occupied by the present Mrs. Longworth. Her comparative youth has doubtless been one of the causes. She made her formal debut as a dance given in the famous East Room of the White House only last December 28, and thus far has given evidence of being of a less active but more studious nature than that possessed by "the Princess Alice," who flitted about so gayly christening yachts and opening bazaars and things.

Mrs. Taft is known generally as a woman far less formal than Mrs. Roosevelt and far more accessible, and the difference in her character is expected to be very clearly reflected in the changes to take place in the social life of Washington that radiates from the White House. She is the daughter of Judge Herron of Cincinnati, and her father's family and that of the new President have been friends for many years, in fact the President and his wife practically grew up together as children.

They became engaged not long after Mr. Taft was graduated from Yale and before there was anywhere nearly so much of him as there is at present. Mrs. Taft spent a year in Cincinnati University but was not graduated. After she left school she spent a year in teaching a class of boys in a Cincinnati private school, as she said she wanted to see what she could do to earn her own living if it ever became necessary for her to do it.

MRS. TAFT'S MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

In Cincinnati the Tafts have never had the slightest ambition to be considered either exclusive or smart. At the same time they have always lived like the cultivated and refined people they are, and their home, wherever it has been, has always been the centre of much quiet, intellectual entertainment.

Mrs. Taft while well educated along many lines has a strongly musical turn of mind. This is practical as well as theoretical. She is in fact an accomplished pianist and always keeps in practice. If she desires she is able to sit down at the piano and play a very considerable programme of classical selections. The President's wife was among the organizers of the Ladies Musical Club in Cincinnati, from which was later formed the Cincinnati Orchestra Association. Of this Mrs. Taft became president, a

there a touch of gray that is far from being unbecoming. In matters of dress she is as unpretentious as in other ways, but her gowns are all of fashionable cut and well adapted to her personal style. In personal appearance she will make a President's wife that the country will have every reason to approve.

As to intellectual attributes, those who know Mrs. Taft well are a unit in declaring that never within the recollection of Washingtonians of to-day has there been a woman resident in the White House to equal Mrs. Taft. She is an excellent conversationalist in the small talk manner, but she is something much better and bigger than that. She is able to talk well on any subject of contemporaneous interest. She has always kept in close touch with the public life of her husband and is probably far better informed regarding the great Governmental problems that President Taft has to face than many men who will occupy not inconsiderable stations in his Administration.

Even in politics the President's wife is shrewdly versed. She knows where votes come from, where party influence resides and how best to move it, and there is nobody who knows how much the President relies on her advice who doubts that many important questions of politics that have come before him for decision have been held up until Mr. Taft could ask Mrs. Taft how about it.

It isn't merely her "woman's intuition" that the President values. It's her judgment as well. Her knowledge of governmental problems has been largely increased by the fact that she has been her husband's companion on many of the now famous foreign travels that he has undertaken. She was with him on his famous trip around the world and she resided in Manila during most of the time when the President was Governor of the Philippines.

It was at this time, too, that Mrs. Taft acquired a pretty thorough knowledge of the Spanish language, which she still speaks with fluency, being also able to negotiate some of the many native Philippine dialects with considerable skill. In addition to this Mrs. Taft reads and speaks French excellently. Her policy of keeping in touch with the manifold activities of her husband also resulted in her acquiring a considerable knowledge of the law, which she read extensively while Mr. Taft was a practicing lawyer in Ohio and after he went upon the bench. Add to these various intellectual accom-